GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4395
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on mal-nutrition is likely to be convened in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by the Government to over come the menace of mal nutrition especially among poor people and people living below the poverty line in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b) The subjects of Nutrition/mal-nutrition are discussed in various conferences/seminars organised by Government/NGOs/Private Sectors from time to time.In 2003, the IXth Asian Congress on Nutrition is proposed to be held at New Delhi.

(c) Government of India adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 which advocated a multi-sectoral approach for controlling the problem of malnutrition and improving the nutrition status of the people. The National Nutrition Policy contains both short term/direct interventions and long term/indirect interventions. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition was developed for 14 Departments/Ministries of Government to serve as a framework for translating the instruments of Nutrition Policy.

Various measures adopted by the Govt. to improve the nutritional status of the population especially of the poor are:-

Increased agricultural production;
Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;
Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding;
Supplementary feeding programmes viz.
(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;
(ii) Special Nutrition programme (SNP);
(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP);
(iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme;
(v) Mid-Day Meal Programme etc.

In addition, Programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; Prophylaxis Programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Pilot Project for control of micronutrient malnutrition are also under implementation.